



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

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News Release

WESTPORT MAN ARRESTED ON FEDERAL CHILD PORNOGRAPHY CHARGES

NEW HAVEN, CT—Kevin J. O'Connor, United States Attorney for the District of Connecticut, announced today that Paul Held, 67, of 195 North Avenue, Westport, Conn., was arrested Tuesday by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents at his residence and charged with receipt and distribution of child pornography, and possession of child pornography. Following his arrest, Held appeared before United States Magistrate Judge William I. Garfinkel in Bridgeport and was ordered detained. Judge Garfinkel has scheduled a bond hearing in the matter for Friday, Aug. 5 at 12:30 pm.

According to an arrest affidavit filed in court and unsealed today, the Government alleges that Held, a retired Westport schoolteacher, possessed numerous compact discs, magazines, photographs and VHS tapes containing images of child pornography. During yesterday's search of Held's residence, law enforcement agents seized hundreds of compact discs alone. These items as well as several computers and other storage media are being analyzed by law enforcement.

"After examining the seized items, the federal government may bring additional charges against Mr. Held." U.S. Attorney O'Connor stated.

U.S. Attorney O'Connor stressed that Held has only been charged with the referenced crimes. The defendant is entitled to have the case presented to a grand jury and, if he is indicted, he is entitled to a fair trial and it is the Government's burden to prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

Receipt and distribution of child pornography carries a mandatory minimum term or imprisonment of five years, a maximum term of 20 years and a fine of up to \$250,000. Possession of child pornography carries a maximum term of imprisonment of 10 years and a fine of up to \$250,000.

U.S. Attorney O'Connor commended the investigative efforts of the agents and officers of ICE and the Vermont Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force based in Burlington, Vermont.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney James K. Filan.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.